Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below.

Claims 1 – 10 and 12 were originally filed.

Claim 12 has been renumbered to claim 11.

New Claims 13 – 20 are added in this response.

Claim 12 has been amended.

No Claims have been canceled.

Claims 1 – 20 are pending.

1.   (Original) A method of mapping a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string comprising:

searching for a particular pattern in an input URL string, the pattern being defined in a manner that permits the search to be satisfied while allowing variability among constituent parts of the input URL string; and

replacing the input URL string with an output URL string if the pattern is found in the input URL string.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular pattern comprises a regular expression.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of searching comprises:

accessing a plurality of input expressions, each of which describes a different pattern, wherein the input expressions are each associated with an output expression; and

checking the input URL string against the input expressions to determine a matching input expression.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said replacing comprises:

generating an output URL string from the output expression associated with the matching input expression.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said searching comprises:

accessing a plurality of input expressions, each of which describes a different pattern, wherein the input expressions are each associated with an output expression;

checking the input URL string against the input expressions to determine a matching input expression; and

wherein said replacing comprises generating an output URL string from the output expression associated with the matching input expression.

6.   (Original) A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) mapping engine comprising an Application Programming Interface (API) that exposes a plurality of methods that are associated with managing rules that govern mapping capabilities of the URL mapping engine.

7.   (Original) A method of mapping a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string comprising:

receiving an input URL string;

mapping the input URL string to an output expression having a tagged expression therein; and

using the tagged expression to provide an output URL string.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the act of using comprises:

invoking a lookup procedure specified by the tagged expression to produce a result; and

using the result to generate the output URL string.

9.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing acts comprising:

receiving an input Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string;

evaluating the input URL string against a plurality of rules to identify a rule specifying a text pattern corresponding to the URL string, each rule having an output expression associated therewith, at least one rules specifying a text pattern correspond to more than one combination of text characters; and

producing an output URL string using an output expression associated with the identified rule.

10.   (Original) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein each rule includes a rule ID and a rule action type.

12. 11.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing acts comprising:

defining a plurality of rules, wherein each rule specifies:

a text pattern;

a rule ID;

a rule action type; and

a corresponding output expression;

wherein at least some of the text patterns correspond to more than one combination of text characters;

evaluating the rules against a URL string to identify a rule specifying a text pattern corresponding to the URL string; and

replacing the URL string with an output string specified by the output expression of the identified rule.

13.   (New) A system comprising:

a server receiving an input uniform resource locater (URL) string;

a mapping engine applying one or more rules to the input URL string to replace the input URL string with a corresponding output URL string, wherein each of the one or more rules is characterized by a rule identifier, a rule action type, an input expression, and an output expression, wherein the input expression includes a variable character that represents one or more other characters;

a web-site rendering engine generating a requested resource identified by the output URL string.

14.   (New) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein the rule action is one of the following:

a repeat rule;

an abort mapping;

a no action.

15.   (New) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein the one or more rules are grouped into one or more groups, wherein each of the one or more groups corresponds to a portion of the input URL string.

16.   (New) A system as recited in claim 15 wherein each of the one or more groups are grouped according to one of the following:

a hostname portion of the input URL string;

a parameters portion of the input URL string;

a scoping function.

17.   (New) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein the one or more rules comprise a forward-mapping rule to map the input URL string to the output URL string.

18.   (New) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein the one or more rules comprise a backward-mapping rule to map the output URL string to the input URL string.

19.   (New) A system as recited in claim 13 further comprising a computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a data structure for storing the one or more rules, the data structure comprising:

a rule ID field storing the rule ID;

a rule action type field storing the rule action type;

an input expression field storing the input expression;

an output expression field storing the output expression.

20   (New) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein the mapping engine applies the one or more rules in an order indicated by the rule identifier.